

Message Text

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TAGS:SOPN, PARM

SUBJECT: SEPT. 14 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN THEIR SYNDICATED COLUMN PUBLISHED SEPT. 14 IN WASHINGTON POST, CHARGED THAT LESLIE H. GELB, DIRECTOR OF POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS IN STATE DEPARTMENT, HAS DEVISED AN ARMS CONTROL STRATEGY THAT OFFERS ESCALATING CONCESSIONS TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF PROGRESS IN SALT IN ORDER TO AVERT CONGRESSIONAL INTERFERENCE. EVANS AND NOVAK SAID SECRET "SALT STRATEGY PAPER" DRAFTED BY GELB BOILS DOWN TO TWO IMPERATIVES: "FIRST, AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION IN SALT TRANSCENDS MERE MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS; SECOND, RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CONGRESS MUST BE AVOIDED, WHATEVER COST." COLUMNISTS SAID GELB STRATEGY, OUTLINED IN 15-PAGE MEMO DATED JULY 26, WOULD EXTEND SALT
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ONE "THROUGH INFORMAL MEANS, RATHER THAN "FORMAL EXTENSION, WITH PROSPECT OF CRITICAL (CONGRESSIONAL) HEARINGS AND RESTRICTIVE AMENDMENTS. SUCH AN ADMINISTRATION EFFORT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN. BUT GELB MAKES SPECIFIC HOW TO PULL IT OFF: SHOW SOME PROGRESS ON CURRENT SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS GELB STRATEGY IMPLIES SUCH PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE ONLY BY SEVERELY LIMITING U.S. CRUISE MISSILE DEPLOYMENT." EVANS

AND NOVAK SAID "THIS PROPOSAL GENERATED ASTONISHMENT AND DISTRESS WITHIN CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHEN GELB'S PAPER

WAS CIRCULATED SIX WEEKS AGO. NEVERTHELESS, STRATEGY BEING HAMMERED OUT AT HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS LAST WEEK WAS FIRST COUSIN OF GELB'S (THOUGH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS DEMANDING MAJOR CHANGES). MOREOVER, FRIENDLY CONGRESSMEN ARE BEING PRIVATELY CONSULTED THIS WEEK ABOUT 'INFORMAL' EXTENSION OF SALT ONE."

2. WASHINGTON POST REPRINTED DISPATCH BY LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORTER ROBERT GILLETTE STATING THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS QUIETLY DECLASSIFIED RESULTS OF SECRET NUCLEAR TEST IN NEVADA DESERT SHOWING DEFINITELY THAT ATOMIC WEAPONS CAN BE MADE FROM IMPURE PLUTONIUM PRODUCED BY CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. ERDA SPOKESMAN, GILLETTE REPORTED, CONFIRMED THAT U.S. HAD EXPLODED NUCLEAR DEVICE USING LOW-GRADE PLUTONIUM AND THAT DEVICE "PRODUCED NUCLEAR YIELD."
"GOVERNMENT SOURCES INDICATED THAT TEST CONFIRMED WHAT THEORETICAL STUDIES IN U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS LABORATORIES HAD CONCLUDED -- THAT NATIONS SEEKING TO OBTAIN ATOMIC WEAPONS COVERTLY COULD BUILD THEM FROM LOW-GRADE PLUTONIUM STOCKPILED OSTENSIBLY FOR USE AS CIVILIAN REACTOR FUEL.,

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3. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS STATED THAT AGREEMENT TO LET JAPAN OPEN ITS TOKAI MURA NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT DID NOT REFLECT ANY CHANGE IN POLICY OF DISCOURAGING SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPON-MAKING CAPACITY. ROBERT FRI, ONE OF U.S. OFFICIALS WHO SIGNED U.S.-JAPAN AGREEMENT ON TOKAI MURA, TOLD SENATE ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE THAT U.S. DID NOT REGARD THIS AS PRECEDENT "NOR ARE WE IN ANY MANNER NOW AGREEING THAT REPROCESSING PLANTS AS GENERAL RULE CAN BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED." VANCE

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